d58 tf

ROUND THE KITCHEN FIRE. When I git up o' mornin's for to light the

kitchen fire, Az' watch the blaze go creeping up the chimbly

higher an' higher, nappin' an' a crackiin' with exhileratin' roar, sendin' out the warmness cl'ar acrost the puncheon floor, puncheon floor, An' I turn around to toast my back an' rub my

sparks a flashin' back from mother's shiny pans, My feelin's goes to warblin' like a blue-bird on a spire, When I git up o' mornin's fer to light the

An' then the room gits good an' warm, the kit-tic starts to bile, An' mother potters down the stairs an' stands an' yawns awhile,

An' sez: "Now, Pap, you go an' rouse them sleepy boys o' yours, For it's snowin', an' there's lots to do besides

the mornin' chores: An' then she breshes up the hearth with that old turkey wing, stoops an' pulls her stockin's up an ties em with a string,

Towser gaps an' stretches out, an' acts a little shyer, When I git up o' mornin's fer to light the

An' when the boys come trampin' in an' scrouge around an' spat, An' kick the dog an' poke the fire an' set down

The coffee-pot's b'iled over an' the biscuit's

The sassidges just brown enough, the breakfast table sot,
An' mother sez: "Fetch up the cheers," an'
pours the collec out, My cup runs over with a joy the rest don't know

about, Fer the blessin's o' the Lord to me's a daily drawin nigher. When I git up o' mornin's fer to light the E. S. Hopkins, in Louisville Courier-Journal.

JACK PRICE.

Only a Deck Hand, but He Gave His Life for Others.

I suppose not one in a thousand will care to read a deck hand's story. People call us coarse and vulgar. Granted; but our work makes us so. There are ladies, I fancy, who will shudder at the thought of such a story, and gentlemen who will dip into it carefully, expecting to find a string of oaths. Judge for yourselves whether this tale of Jack Price, my partner, is fit for refined ears.

No need to tell you of a deck hand's life. A man that beats about in the cold and rain, andling sleety ropes or balancing himself on the gunwale of a coal barge with twenty feet of swift water under him, is not apt to be a pretty, kid-gloved, soft-voiced fellow. If his face is red it is because midwinter winds on the Ohio are not good for the complexion. He deals with rough work and is rough himself; but his heart is just about as apt to be right as that of a Senator or a

We started from Pittsburgh on the George Hammond in July, Jack and I. There was a big river, and we made good time to Louisville, where we shipped on the Charley Roberts, bound for Orieans. To say we found it hot on the Lower Mississippi gives no idea of the weather. Half the crew were unfit for duty. One morning there was a whispering among the boys. "What's up, Jack?" said L

"Steve Robinson's down with swamp The boys gathered in a knot around the capstan. Before long there was a panic

among them. The mate shook his head and looked thoughtful. "The man must be put ashore," said the

"No, sirl" cried Jack Price. "Who are you!"
"Plain Jack Price; but Steve don't go

ashore. It's an outrage to think of it."
"Who's to nurse him?"

Do you know what swamp fever is!" "Do I know any thing!"

Doubtful." "I'll nurse Steve, I tell you! We've made five trips together, and if he's put ashore "You it is," said the captain, turning on

his heel. "Not another man goes into Steve's state-room." For ten days Steve's room was quaran-

tined. Nobody but Jack saw the inside of it. We saw him sometimes, carrying something to the sick man or sitting on the guards to get a breath of air; but every soul on the boat kent out of his way. We all liked Jack, but the fever might be in his clothes. He began to look pale, but he out to us that Steve was dead. A few hours after we buried him on an island in the river in a pine box, and the only thing like a prayer said over him was from Jack: "God bein him!" The fever did not spread, and we all

breathed freer. A few evenings after Steve's death I was on watch at the head of the tow, and Jack was with me. We were puffing at tobies to keep off the mosquitoes. There was a haze over the water, but the stars were shining, and the broad river was "Jack," said I, "I've got a raging head-

No!" said he, as if he asked a question.

He took my hand and held it. "Not fever, is it, Jack?"

"Come and lie down," was his answer. A dizziness came over me, and, without have reached my bunk. I remember very little after that. I learned afterwards that I was debrious; but how long I can not tell you. I remember Jack's face near me at times as in a dream-the kindliest face you ever saw, not handsome, may-be, but a face with some of God's goodness in it.

When I got back to reality again I found Jack bending over me. I was in the same state-room, and I could feel from the motion that the boat was under way.

"How long have I been here, Jack?"

"Quite awhile, my boy."
"And where are we?"

"Not far from Memphis." "Going up or down?"

"Going home. Don't talk if it tires you." What was the matter with me, Jack?" "A touch of fever; but you're better

"Can't I look out, Jack? It will do me good to see the sun." He raised me up as gently as a woman would have done, and I looked out through the glass door of the state-room eagerly as achild. Had the sun ever shone so brightly before! The low wooded shores looked like paradise. No mountain stream ever seemed

beautiful to me as the great muddy river. "Jack," said I, when he laid me down again, "what can I ever do to pay you?" "Pay me for what?"

Look at me; I'm thin as a ghost. I must have been sick a long time. You've pulled I've done nothing of the kind," said he,

I noticed for the first time how very thin and pinched his face was. It seemed as if he had grown old.

atme, Jack; you've been the best friend I ever had " He made no answer, but took my hand and pressed it. It seemed as if a mist came between us, and I saw big tears standing in

"I thought I'd got past this," said he,

Next day he came in smiling, with a letter and some oranges.
"I went ashere at Mesiphis," he explained, "and found a letter from Sister Annie. They're looking for me home."

He looked me full in the face and smiled His eyes seemed very large and his cheeks were bloodless. It saidened me to look at

"I must go now," sail he. "I hope you'll enjoy the oranges."

I was mending fast and expected to be out very soon. Jack did not come again that day. Next morning the cook brought me a cup of tea.

"Where is Jack!" I asked. "Busy."

I thought of him all day, but he did not "Cook," said I, at last, "I want you to

tell me the truth about Jack."
"Don't you fret!" he answered.
"But I must know." "Well, he's not able to be about."

"Where is he!"
"In No. 8. But you can't go near him; he's got the fever! Delirious! Wouldn't know his own mother!"

"Who's nursing him!" "I am-what little he gets. We can't make a hospital out of the Charley

Cook tried to stop me, but I staggered across the cabin into No. 8. I could hardly recognize Jack as he lay on the bunk, his face was so flushed and his eyes so bloodshot. He had dropped down, too weak to take his clothes off. I took his hand and sat beside him.

"Jack, my boy, what's wrong?" "Nothing, Sam."

Jack never said much. He was better at doing than saying.

I looked at the poor fellow in despair. I had never nursed a sick person in my life. The captain came in while I sat there.

"We must have a doctor, captain," said L "Might as well want a gold mine," he re-"But look at Jack, captain. What can

"I don't know.

"Sam," said Jack, looking at me with a strange expression, "you know my sister "Certainly, Jack."

"I want you to tell her about me."

"You will soon see her, Jack." "No, Sam; I'm going."

"We're both going home."
"Yes, going home. I'm tired! Tired!"
"Then rest, Jack. I shall be here." "Take my hand, Sam." "I have your hand, my boy. Try to

"Yes," he went on, pointing, "there's Annie at the door. She looks more and more like mother as she grows older. She's glad to see me from the way she smiles."
"Indeed she is, Jack."

"That's Sam's voice; be got over the fever well. I believe I had it, too. Hear old Point barking at the gate; he's most as glad as Annie to see me back. Ah, Sam, it's good to be back in Pennsylvania-God's country! Annie! Annie!"

He fell back in a stuper, with his eyes set. I felt a spasm pass through his frame, after which his hand lay in mine like a lifeless thing. I looked up questioningly at the

"God help him! He is dend."

"Oh, surely not!"
"Dead!" he repeated.
Only when I bent over him did I believe Jack was dead.
"He died working for others," said the captain, and in lieu of better words these

must stand for his epitaph. I can only tell Jack's story in a plain way. I can not fill your eyes with tears as mine are filled, as there is no art behind my words. You read of good men-unselfish and heroic men that poets sing of and historians immortalize—but here there was one that nobody ever heard of. Who was there to read a funeral sermon over him in a lonely place on the river bank next day! Who prayed over the rough pine bex! Not a prayer, not a hymn at the funeral; only

some tears that came of genuine grief. We left him there on the river bank with a piece of driftwood to mark his grave, which the next flood would sweep away. I found a little flower growing there—a violet, I think, which I brought away for Annie. Jack was as homely a man as ever you saw, a big, raw-boned fellow, with a twinkle of the eye that made one laugh. Had you been hunting for a man of polish and education you would not have picked him out His head had not been cultivated at the expense of his heart. He used strong lau-

guage sometimes when a rope got taugled or the pumps worked hard or the coffee didn't suit him. I am not trying to picture him as perfect; I want you to know him as he was. His voice in a sick room was as gentle as a child's; he had a big, tender heart, kindlier than most women have, and a hand that served a friend until ready to drop from weariness. I remember him as he bent over me while I lay helpless with fever, a kindly light beaming in his face cautified it. I learned then how unselfish he was, and my beart went out to him, as yours would have gone had you known him. This was Jack at his best.-H. D. Mason, in Pittsburgh Bulletin.

WASHING THE BABY.

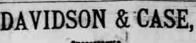
The Masterly Strategy Necessary to Perform the Task Well.

You may think it a very simple thing to wash a baby. You may imagine that one feels quite calm and composed while this operation is being faithfully and conscientiously performed. That shows how little you know. When I tell you that there are four distinct, delicate chins to be dodgingly manipulated, between frantic little crying spells, and as many rolls of fat on the back of the neck that have to be searched out and bathed, with all the endearing baby-talk you can command the while, as a blind to your merciless intentions; when I tell you that, of all things, baby won't have her ears or nose meddled with, and that she resents any infringement on her toes with shrill oubreaks, and that it takes two people to open her chubby little fists, when water seeks to penetrate her palms, you may begin to have some idea what a job it is to wash a baby.

When I tell you the masterly strategy that has to be used to get one stiff, little, rebellious arm out of a cambric sleeve, and the frantic kickings which accompany any attempts to tie on her little red worsted shoe; when I tell you that she objects al-together to be turned over on her stomach in order to tie the strings of her frock, and that she is just as mad when you lay her on her back; when I inform you that she can stiffen herself out when she likes so that you can't possibly make her sit down, and at another time will curl herself up in a circle so that you can't possibly straighten her out; and when you enumerate the garments that have to be got off, and got on. before this process is finally concluded, and that it is to be done before a baking fire, without regard to the state of the thermometer or the agonized dew on your

When I inform you that every now and then you must stop in the process to see that she is not choking, or strangling, or that you have not dislocated any of her funny little legs, or arms, or injured her bobbing little head, you can form some idea of the relief when the last string is tied, and baby emerges from this her daily misery into a state of rosy, diamond-eyed, scarlet-lipped content, looking sweet and fresh as a rosebud, and drowsing off in your arms with quivering white eyelids and pretty unknown murmurings of the little half-smiling lips, while the perfect little waxen bands lie idly by her side. Ah me! how shall one keep from spoiling a baby? Ah me! how can one ever give brimming enough love-measure to the motherless!-Fanny Fern, in N. Y. Ledger.

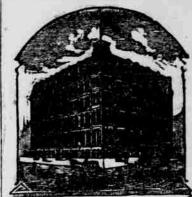
Mamie-I visited Prof. Gilhooly this afternoon and he said my head was full of non-... We'll soon be in Pennsylvania again, lieve there is any thing in it.—Time. Jack (skeptically)-Pshaw, I don't be-



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